

FAMILIES and LEARNING

**A conference that focuses
On Family Literacy and
Parent Involvement**

March 3–4–5, 2003

**WestCoast Colonial Hotel
2301 Colonial Drive
Helena, Montana**

**(Watch your mail in January, 2003 for
registration information.)**

This conference is co-sponsored by:

**Montana Family Literacy Consortium,
Office of Public Instruction Even Start,
Montana Parent Information Resource Network,
Montana Head Start State Collaboration Project,
and the Department of Education at MSU-Bozeman**

Families, Schools, Communities: Connecting the Voices

FEATURED PRESENTERS

Freta E. Parkes from Palestine, Texas is a professional educator and school board member. During her 33 years in education, she worked in many capacities serving students of poverty, using new and innovative methods. She taught in both regular and special education classrooms, worked as an educational diagnostician and was a Title I school principal. Freta has served as a consultant for aha! Process, Inc, since 1997, delivering numerous workshops to appreciative audiences.

Gloria DeGaetano, founder and CEO of The Parent Coaching Institute, is a nationally acclaimed educator, consultant, author, and parent coach, committed to giving her clients research-based information and practical strategies. She has over 25 years experience working with children, teachers, and parents as a classroom teacher, reading specialist, district administrator, university instructor, and national consultant. She teaches graduate courses for Seattle Pacific University, has authored several books and is a leading expert in child development, media literacy, and brain research.

Naomi Haynes Griffith is a true Southerner, growing up in Alabama and Mississippi. She worked in the North Carolina and Alabama child welfare systems, was Executive Director of a pioneer child abuse prevention agency she helped to found and served on the State Board of the Alabama Department of Human Resources. Since 1988, she has become a national speaker and consultant on child welfare issues. Naomi weaves her common sense pragmatism and 30 years experience working with children and families into inspirational and heart-warming stories that motivate her audiences both personally and professionally.

Elaine Trueblood Meeks is a certified trainer for the Center for Cognitive Coaching and provides training to school districts and universities throughout the Northwest. She is also the principal of Cherry Valley Elementary School in Polson, MT, which was named Montana's Title 1 Distinguished School in 2002. Over the last 30 years, Elaine has worked as a regular and special education teacher, special education director, and elementary administrator. She also works as an independent educational consultant, providing staff development to administrators and teachers around the nation. Elaine is a 1998 recipient of the Milken National Educator Award.

Workshop Sessions on These and Other Topics:

- Cognitive Coaching
- The Framework for Understanding Poverty
- Follow-up workshops on Understanding Poverty
- Grant Writing for Beginners – The Basics
- The Right Question Project
- Using Research-Based Reading Strategies
- Parent Involvement in Their Children's Education in High-Poverty Communities

The Families and Learning Conference will begin at 10:00 a.m. Monday, March 3 and close at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday March 5. The Opening Session with incredible desserts and excellent entertainment will be held Monday evening.